

## REMARKS/ ARGUMENTS

The foregoing amendment and the following arguments are provided to impart precision to the claims, by more particularly pointing out the invention, rather than to avoid prior art.

### 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Rejections

Examiner rejected claims 1, 3-9, 11-17 and 19-24 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,428,406 (hereinafter "Andrew") in view of U.S. Patent 5,532,744 (hereinafter "Akiwumi-Assani").

To establish *prima facie* obviousness of a claimed invention, all the claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art. *In re Royka*, 490 F.2d 981, 180 USPQ 580 (CCPA 1974). (MPEP ¶ 2143.03).

Independent claim 1 of the present application includes limitations not suggested or taught by Andrew or Akiwumi-Assani. As a result, claim 1 is patentable over Andrew in view of Akiwumi-Assani.

Specifically, claim 1 of the present application includes the limitation of "assigning, via a first processor of a group of processors sharing said memory, at least one independent slice per processor to be decoded by the processors in parallel, *including assigning a varying number of slices to individual processors.*"

Andrew nor Akiwumi-Assani disclose *assigning a varying number of slices to individual processors*. For example, Andrew discloses partitioning the *blocks* of a frame

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into their horizontal rows, and *all the blocks* of a row are processed in left to right order by a *single DSP*. (Andrew, column 7, line 55-58.) Other wise said, Andrew is limited to disclosing *encoding* digitized video images by which blocks are divided into their horizontal rows and all the blocks of a row are processed in left to right order by a *single DSP*.

As such, claim 1 of the present application is patentable over Andrew in view of Akiwumi-assani because it includes limitations not suggested or taught by Andrew or Akiwumi-assani.

Applicant's additional independent claims 9 and 17 of the present application include similar limitations as discussed above with respect to independent claim 1. As a result, applicant's independent claims 9 and 17 would also be patentable over Andrew in view Akiwumi-assani, for the reasons set forth above.

In addition, claims 3-8, 11-16 and 19-24 depend from the independent claims discussed above, and therefore include the limitations of the referenced independent claims. As a result, claims 3-8, 11-16 and 19-24 include the distinguished limitations, as discussed above, and are therefore patentable over Andrew in view of Akiwumi-assani.

CONCLUSION

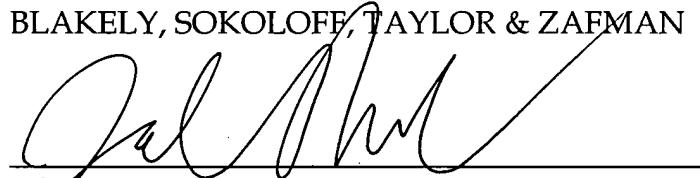
Applicants respectfully submit the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite or assist in the allowance of the present application, the Examiner is invited to call John Ward at (408) 720-8300, x237.

Authorization is hereby given to charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any charges that may be due.

Respectfully submitted,

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